



Confirming the Churches

world evangelistic work of Al Parr
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August 31, 2012

Dear brethren,

May the grace of God be always a blessing in your life. The 6 weeks that have transpired since my last report have been a whirlwind of exciting and encouraging developments. I pray that you might be encouraged by reading of them.

When I came to work with the Harrisburg church, the elders were aware that Chris and I were nearing the fulfillment of our life-long plan to enter full time into the work of encouraging "mission churches." They asked me to give them, when that time came, a lengthy advance notice so that they would have ample time to find the preacher who would best suit the local needs. In April of this year I informed the elders that I was ready to move on into this work, and I set as a target date the first of next year. I anticipated having most of this year to secure the financial support and find another place to live. My time away from Harrisburg in that endeavor - and my July mission trip to Guyana - gave the church opportunities to interview preachers. Upon my return from Guyana the elders informed me that they thought that their search had ended much earlier than expected. After he visited several times, brother Kevin Beard accepted the invitation to come to work with the Harrisburg church. That decision meant that I needed to make the house available much earlier than expected.

My son and daughter, and two granddaughters, came to help with the packing and cleaning, and we were able to vacate the house within the two weeks requested by the church (the Beards have school-age children, and needed to move in before school started). We put everything into a storage facility, and I have been on the road visiting with churches in the promotion of this mission work.

The journey began with visits August 9-12 in familiar churches in east Texas. Thanks to Ed & Mary Brady for room and board, and to Bruce Ligon and to Joel & Ann Shipley for meals and great encouragement. Four churches were visited, and the work was funded for another month.

On August 13 I chaired my last monthly preachers' lunch in Jonesboro, Arkansas, then found a quiet motel room in which I prepared, over the next 4 days, an information package for mailing to churches. I delivered the original 3-page copy to a printer, then went back to the room and hand-addressed the envelopes. On Wednesday night I preached at Apple Hill in Jonesboro, by request summarizing my 13-lesson study guide on prayer. Thursday morning I visited my dentist to get an estimate on work to be done on two broken teeth. We set an appointment for a 90-minute session at the end of the month.

August 17-24 were scheduled for visiting with former supporting churches in north Alabama. By phone and in person I spoke with six of them, but many of the preachers and elders were gone to the Polishing the Pulpit program in Tennessee. Viva and Donnie Vaden (Chris' sister and brother-in-law) were my gracious hosts for the week. Chris' brother Charles, Jr., his wife Jewel and their son Jamie and his fiancée took me out to eat one night, then directed me to one of the churches I wanted to visit. As I drove back to Jonesboro on the 24th I stopped along the way to visit with churches close to my route. I left an information package at seven buildings where I found the doors closed and no one present, but I was able to speak with leaders in three churches.

I was previously scheduled to preach a gospel meeting in the Washington Avenue church in Jonesboro August 26-29. My long-time good friend, Keith Cozort, the local preacher, provided excellent hospitality far beyond the requirement of the meeting. His wife, Cheryl, was in Ohio, having carried their book store display to a lectureship. I have known Keith's parents longer than I have known Keith and Cheryl. Russell and Shirley Cozort, and their other son, Kevin, shared several meals with me, and provided several opportunities just to relax and visit. On Tuesday morning Russell, Keith and Kevin introduced me to disc golf, and I think I'm hooked. In addition to a great Sunday pot luck dinner that enjoyed a near record number of church members present, meals and great fellowship during the week were also provided by Harlan & Mary Wood, Kenneth & Betty Gossett, Sara & Barbara Dacus and Yvonne & Albert Taylor.

Thursday after the meeting was the day set for the dental work, and recovery from that kept me in most of the afternoon. When I was able to drive, I went to Harrisburg to visit with the elders, and for post office and banking business. All three of the elders were out of pocket, so I left messages for them and called it a day, going back to my room and resting as the novocaine and follow-up pain medication began to wear off.

The month of August has ended with another encouraging trip around northeast Arkansas to visit with churches that were not on my mail list. Only once did I find anyone at the building, but I left packages at 6 other buildings. The recurring encouragement I hear at almost every stop is that Christians here in the "Bible Belt" are aware of the great need for the work we have planned for churches elsewhere. A few have said that they don't understand what it is we are trying to do, but the vast majority agree whole-heartedly that this is a work that has been needed for a long time.

I have written, phoned or personally visited over 120 churches this month. Christians in other places have told me that they have spread the word to others. Please pray that the message gets a fair hearing among servants of God. With most of these, all I can do is pray and wait, but I plan to mail next week approximately 100 more information packages with request for support. If you know anyone anywhere who has "the care of all the churches" at heart, please let me know how to contact them. Or you might encourage them yourself to get the basic information by reading through the web site (www.acts1541.org) and the Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/Confirming the Churches](http://www.facebook.com/Confirming%20the%20Churches)).

And, of course, please pray for this ministry, and for me personally, as my heart is set to seek the Lord, and to help others in their desire to grow closer to Him. May our Loving Father bless you with many opportunities to serve, and the good health and wisdom to see and fulfill each one.

In His service,

A. L. Parr

August Contributions (in addition to those mentioned above):

Harrisburg church	\$500.00
Sue Oliver	\$500.00
Gravel Hill church	\$200.00